

Riverside County Superior Court Pilot Program Proposal

The following is a proposal of process and oversight for issuing housing vouchers from the Economic Development Agency of Riverside/Housing Authority and the Riverside County Family and Dependency Drug Courts. These two organizations will work in partnership to implement this important program.

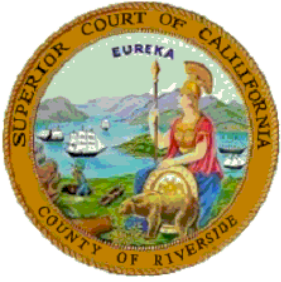
The main goal of the Riverside County Family and Dependency Drug Courts is to reunite children with parents by providing the assistance necessary to establish timely, adequate, and permanent homes for children. The most critical need of the family drug court has been providing housing, transportation, childcare, and mental health services to the clients. Our program will offer drug court families a “hand up and out” of their life cycle of abusive behavior by providing a violence and drug-free roof over their heads. Children will not be placed with a parent that has been unable to obtain appropriate housing.

The structure and process of all family-oriented drug courts includes judicial supervision, case management, frequent/random drug testing, parenting and/or Nurturing Families program, obtaining GED, obtaining or enhancing employment, and meeting all the goals of the reunification plan. Specifically, qualifications for a housing voucher will be strictly enforced and include:

- 100% compliance with the drug court program for a minimum of three months
- 100% compliance with the Department of Public Social Services reunification plan
- Frequent/random drug testing
- Employment which is verifiable and a minimum of 32 hours per week.
- No criminal behavior within a three-year period (This includes all felony and misdemeanor charges/arrests.)
- The client’s attitude, desire and motivation will clearly demonstrate their willingness to make a commitment to sobriety

Approval of voucher distribution will begin with the drug court team. Clients will be identified for need and achievement within the drug court program. The Drug Court Judicial Officer will review the voucher request and prepare a letter of recommendation to the Presiding Judge of Juvenile Court or the Supervising Judge of Family Law for a final approval. Clients will be required to sign an “Agreement to Participate in Priority Housing Assistance” which states all the requirements of eligibility and continued participation.

Clients who receive housing vouchers will be made aware of their obligation to keep rental units free from drug-related and violent or criminal activity. Awardees will be expected to fully participate in the Housing Authorities’ Family Self-Sufficiency Program to help them move to economic independence so they will be free of any governmental assistance. Awardees must follow all rules and regulations set out by the Housing Authority.



Pilot Program Proposal

Prepared and endorsed in collaboration:

Honorable Jean Pfeiffer Leonard
Riverside County Superior Court

Honorable Elizabeth Sichel
Riverside County Superior Court

John Ryan
Department of Mental Health/Substance Abuse

Dennis Boyle
Department of Public Social Services

PILOT PROGRAM PROPOSAL

A Collaboration Between
Economic Development Agency of
Riverside/Housing Authority
And
Riverside County Superior Court's
Family/Dependency Drug Court

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Pamela Miller
Collaborative Justice Coordinator

